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Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 01295 231448Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03
INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03
SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-04
CEA-01 PA-01 PRS-01 /080 W
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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3426

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EGEN, LE
SUBJECT: GOL APPOINTS CHAIRMAN OF DEVELOPMENT AND RECONSTRUCTION BOARD

REF: BEIRUT 0323

1. ON MARCH 21, 1977, THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ANNOUNCED THE APPOINTMENT OF MOHAMMAD KARAM ATALLAH TO A FIVE-YEAR TERM AS CHAIRMAN OF THE RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD, WHICH IS TO COORDINATE ALL RECONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES IN LEBANON AND REPLACE THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SEE REF).

2. ACCORDING TO L'ORIENT-LE JOUR, ATALLAH WAS BORN ON JUNE 20, 1929, IN SIDON, RECEIVED BA IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION FROM THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY BEIRUT (AUB), AND A PH.D FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF ROTTERDAM. HE HAS BEEN A PROFESSOR AT AUB; DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE ARAB INVESTMENT COMPANY; MEMBER OF THE PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD OF THE GOL'S PLANNING COMMISSION; AND REPRESENTATIVE OF THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT ON THE FIRST BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE "NEW INTRA-BANK."

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3. THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ALSO ANNOUNCED THE FOLLOWING APPOINTMENTS TO THE BOARD:

-- FOR FIVE-YEAR TERMS AS VICE-CHAIRMAN: ADEL KHOURY, ENGINEER AND PROFESSOR; AND HAJJ HAJJ, DOCTOR IN ECONOMICS AND AGRONOMY;

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

-- FOR A FIVE-YEAR TERM AS SECRETARY GENERAL: JOESPH SASSINE, CITY PLANNER AND CIVIL ENGINEER (BROTHER OF DEPUTY MICHEL SASSINE);

-- FOR THREE-YEAR TERMS AS MEMBER ADVISORS: MICHEL MURR, CIVIL ENGINEER AND ENTREPRENEUR; ASSEM SALAM, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE COMMISSION FOR ENLARGING THE PORT OF BEIRUT (AND NEPHEW OF FORMER PM SAEB SALEM); ADEL HAMIYE, ENGINEER AND CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE OFFICE OF RAILROADS AND MASS TRANSIT; HAYAN HAIDAR, DOCTOR IN CIVIL ENGINEERING; OMAR HAMZE, ECONOMIST, BUSINESSMAN AND FORMER UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR; ANTOINE BASSIL, DOCTOR IN ECONOMICS, PROFESSOR AT UNIVERSITY OF ST. JOSEPH, AND LECTURER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PARIS; HAGOP DEMEERDJIAN, CIVIL ENGINEER; ELIE SKAFF, GRADUATE OF THE ECOLE POLY-TECHNIQUE.

4. COMMENT: THE APPOINTMENT OF THE RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD IS LONG OVERDUE. THE DECREE-LAW PROVIDING FOR THE BOARD WAS ISSUED ON JAN 24, BUT IT TOOK ALMOST TWO MONTHS FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO DECIDE ON A CHAIRMAN. MOST OF THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD, INCLUDING CHAIRMAN ATALLAH (WHO IS A SUNNI MOSLEM) ARE CONSIDERED TO BE FOLLOWERS OF THE LATE PRESIDENT CHEHAB AND THUS CLOSE IN POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY TO PRESIDENT SARKIS. THE APPOINTMENT OF THESE MEN TO THE RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD IS AN IMPORTANT FIRST STEP IN THE GOL'S EFFORTS TO DEVELOP COMPREHENSIVE AND EFFECTIVE RECONSTRUCTION STRATEGY.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: MEETING CHAIRMAN, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS
Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 23-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Subject: GOL APPOINTS CHAIRMAN OF DEVELOPMENT AND RECONSTRUCTION BOARD
TAGS: EGEN, LE, (ATALLAH, MOHAMMAD KARAM)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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EO Systematic Review
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